



Newsletter May 2023

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The Prez says ...



The trees and flowers are alive with color and the League is alive with opportunities to make a difference for your League, your county, and the state, in the next few weeks. Here is a short list - Please contact me for further details or see them elsewhere here and on our website

(lwvmidhudson.org).

Impact your elected officials

on Advocacy Day, May 2nd, in Albany: Several of us will be carpooling to this highly informative and fun day at the state League office and the Capitol. Socialize with fellow League members from throughout the state and hear about the state League's lobbying efforts.

Visit your state Assembly member or state senator! We are continuing to make visits and hear how these folks will or did vote on issues we care about. If you're new to this, feel free just to listen.

Watch your county legislature: We continue to need people to sit in on meetings of the county legislature in all three counties. Just BEING there makes a real difference, believe us. But we love hearing your reports and possibly printing them in our newsletter. Ask us for a League pin to identify you and get further instructions on what we hope you'll do (or not do!)

For Ulster residents: Watch the Ulster County Charter Revision Commission, especially at an important meeting on May 4 at 4pm. The chair of the Legislature, Tracey Bartels, will present many revisions and we'll be all ears. Visit in person or on Zoom (Meeting ID 840 4292 4344)

Help voters:

We are looking for many volunteers to help us get candidate information up on the national LWV website for voter information Vote411. The challenge is to get candidate email addresses and get them to post their info! We will give you tips and training.

We are also, always, looking for help (timekeepers, moderators,

greeters) with candidate meetings. Watch one or more school board candidate meetings in early May and see if you want to help more. We hope to have moderator training this summer. Fall, of course, is our busiest time.

Voter registration is always going on in schools and many other places.

Learn about League inner workings! Our State Convention is June 2-4 at the Desmond Hotel in Albany. We can send FIVE official delegates and for these we will pay the \$100 registration fee. Contact me for details. It is both a great learning opportunity and a great time to socialize with League members from all over. More details are at lvvny.org.

LWVMHR Annual Meeting is June 15, 4 pm on, at the Starr Library in Rhinebeck. Watch for a SNAIL MAIL announcement that will include the budget and Nominating Committee report and other official details. It should reach you by May 25 or so. It is always a festive as well as interesting event.

Finally, anyone can be part of our communications team! Take photos, write articles, or help in other ways with our website and social media.

I'd love to answer your questions about any of the above!

Dare Thompson

845-236-3074 darethompson@gmail.com

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Action Items

Get the most out of a Membership and Be Involved with Your Local League!



This section offers reports from ongoing groups and a Calendar to keep us connected:

MEETING DATES & ZOOM LINKS-

May - June

* All members and interested non-members are welcome at all League meetings unless otherwise indicated.

May 2nd

LWV New York State Advocacy Day in Albany

May 3rd

12:30 PM

LWV Mid-Hudson Membership Committee Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86309152442?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86309152442?pwd=eGlxQU1WRG53NE9SWUNZS1I1eWExZz09)

[pwd=eGlxQU1WRG53NE9SWUNZS1I1eWExZz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86309152442?pwd=eGlxQU1WRG53NE9SWUNZS1I1eWExZz09)

May 4th

4 PM

Ulster County Charter Reform Commission's next meeting:

6th floor, County Office Bldg, Kingston

The Commission welcomes visitors!

Zoom (Meeting ID 840 4292 4344)

May 9-12th

YWCA Stand Against Racism

Events throughout Ulster & Dutchess Counties

See flyers info below or email:

comms@ywcaulstercounty.org

May 12th

Noon

League Southern Tier Meetup

[Silk Factory](#), Newburgh

Special guest speaker, [Assemblyman \(99th\) Chris Eachus](#)

RSVP Cindy Lanzetta

packback56@yahoo.com or 845-236-7288

May 15th

1:45 PM

LWVMHR Book Club

[Enzo's Restaurant](#)

Kingston

May 18th

7 PM

LWVMHR

Board Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82555616265?>

[pwd=M0w4bFJCL0U1cTY4Q3I6RUtIY1F1dz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82555616265?pwd=M0w4bFJCL0U1cTY4Q3I6RUtIY1F1dz09)

June 2-4th

League of Women Voters

State Convention!

Albany -

Let Dare Thompson know if you'd like to attend

845-236-3074 or darethompson@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE: Thursday June 15th - Annual Meeting!!!



LWVMHR Book Club Meeting

Our upcoming book Club Meeting will be May 15th.

All Book Club meetings are at [Enzo's Restaurant](#) in Kingston at 1:45PM. Any League Member is welcome. Bring a friend! Hope to see you next time!

As always, we encourage members to borrow the book from the library or purchase from local booksellers.



Assembly Redistricting

by Kathy OConnor

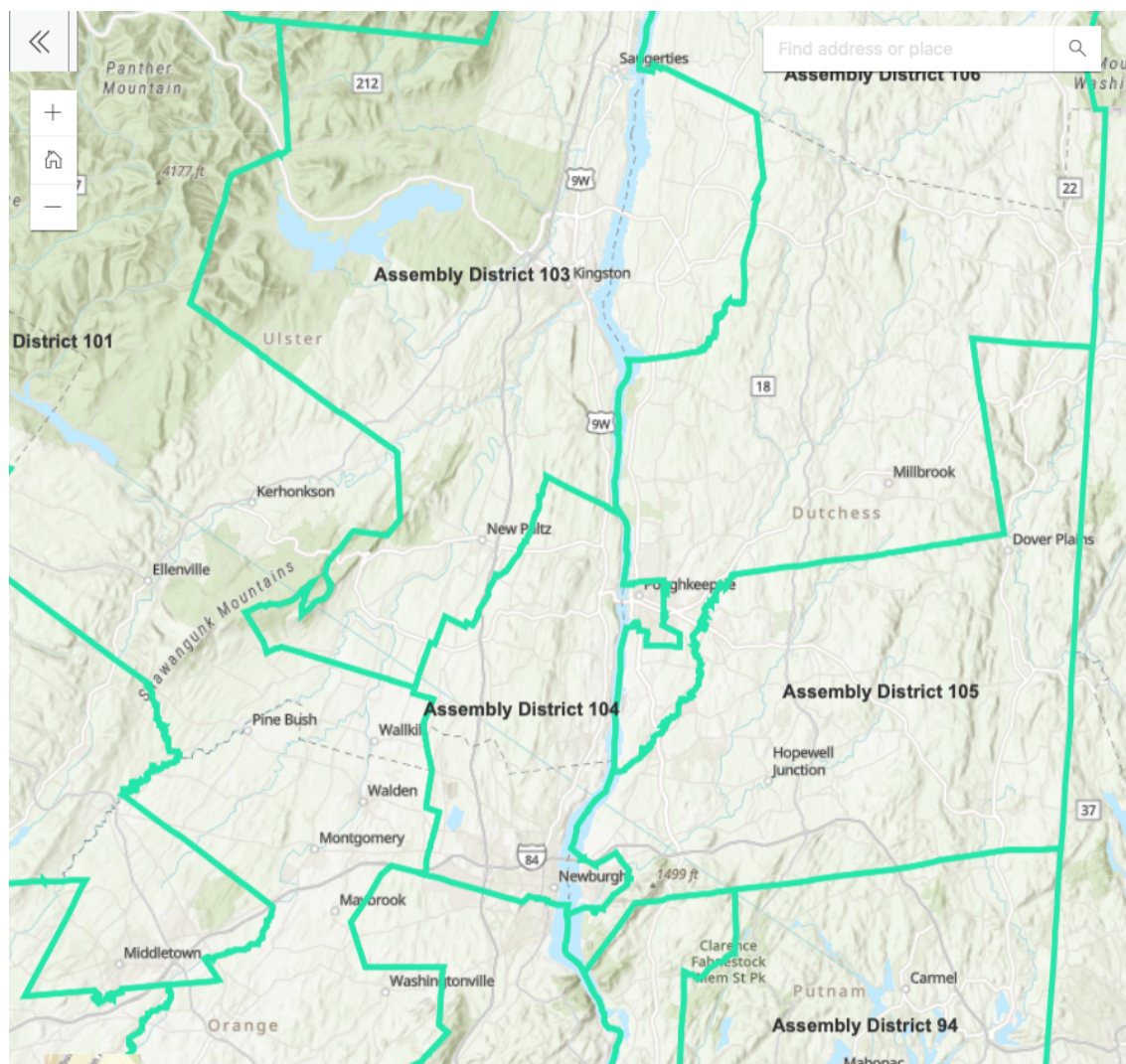
Assembly maps, drafted by the Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC), were released on the 20th of April. The final maps were voted on by the IRC and passed with a 9-1 vote. The maps will now go to the Legislature for a vote.

Laura Bierman, Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of New York State, responded to this news in a joint statement issued with the Executive Director of Common Cause and the Executive Director of the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG):

“The Assembly maps drawn by the Independent Redistricting

Commission are almost identical to the maps drawn by the Assembly already in place – showing that this whole process was a waste of New Yorkers time and money. New Yorkers deserve non-partisan maps not drawn by politicians who have their own stake in the outcome. We have long maintained that people, not politicians, should decide what the maps look like. If New York lawmakers want to respond to voters' desire that this chaos never happens again, they must advance an amendment that enshrines a truly independent redistricting process into the constitution."

On the positive side, many are happy that the process prevailed in keeping the Towns of Red Hook and Rhinebeck in AD 103, and the City of Poughkeepsie along with Beacon in AD 104.



Regional Meetup Groups

A report on the
"Southern Tier
Group" by Cindy
Lanzetta

Because of the
ongoing State
Budget
negotiations,
Assembly Aide
Julie Shiroishi was
not able to meet
with our group.
We still had a
great meeting and
talked about the
upcoming
presentation at
Tri-Valley High School, that the group of students we have
worked with will do on June 8th.



Minisink High School Voter Registration

Our next meeting is on May 12th, noon, at [the Silk Factory](#) in Newburgh. Our guest will be the 99th Assembly District Representative Chris Eachus. By then he might be able to tell us more about the Budget negotiations!

RSVP's are appreciated. If you are interested in joining us, please **RSVP** and call Cindy Lanzetta for more information on logistics! 845-236-7288 or packback56@yahoo.com.

LWVNYS Advocacy Day

May 2, 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM

LWVNYS will host an advocacy day on May 2 in Albany, NY. Join us!



Learn about important legislative issues and how to advocate for them.
Meet new League members from across the state.
Lobby your state legislators at the Capitol.
Enjoy lunch provided by LWVNYS.

League members are asked to make their own appointments with legislators and schedule them for 1:30 pm at the earliest. We will walk up to the Capitol after lunch. Those without appointments may try to visit their legislators or join the state League staff in the gallery's watching section.

The LWVMHR (local) members are hoping to car pool and go up together. If you are interested in doing so - PLEASE contact Cindy Lanzetta at packback56@yahoo.com or 845-236-7288

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Environmental Impact

The Th!rd Act

Some of the people reading this article fall into the category of 'the over 60 crowd' and might think that their opportunity to effect positive environmental change may have passed them by. Not so fast!



There is an organization known as The Th!rd Act whose mission is this “We are building a community of Americans over the age of sixty determined to change the world for the better. Together, we use our life experience, skills and resources to build a better tomorrow.”

The goals are to protect the climate and strengthen democracy.

The Th!rd Act was founded by American Environmentalist, Author and Journalist, Bill McKibben, in September of 2021, in order to organize and mobilize actions for older adults. While many are winding down careers and looking to retire, many others are just getting started.

There are a number of ways to get involved from joining the mailing list to taking action and being part of a working group. There are many ways to participate, both virtually and in person, as part of a group of like-minded people with life experience to share.

To find out more about Bill McKibben’s life and work, go to [Bill McKibben - Wikipedia](#)

To learn more about The Th!rd Act, go to [Homepage - Third Act](#)

Cindy Bell

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News Items



LOCAL PRIMARIES COMING UP

Our three counties -- Dutchess, Ulster and Orange -- are currently finalizing the petitions submitted by candidates running for office in their respective counties. It is anticipated that there will be primaries

held in each of these counties.

Voting on primary candidates (i.e., where there are two or more candidates from the same party, running for the same office) will take place on June 27th. Early voting will take place June 17 to June 25th, on times and locations to be announced.

To vote in a primary, you must be registered by June 17th. If you need to file a Change of Address, that must be submitted by June

12th.

The counties will post on their websites information about the primaries as it becomes available. Our local League website gives contact information for the county websites.

<https://my.lwv.org/new-york/mid-hudson-region/article/contact-information-your-board-elections>



Thank You, Gloria!

Cindy Bell holds a check for \$300 from Gloria Waslyn, LWVMHR member and President of Ulster County Women's Network. The UCWN hosted author Ellen Messer to talk about her book, *Back Rooms- Voices from the Illegal Abortion Era*. The program was presented after the Supreme Court's Dobbs decision, which overturned the *Roe v. Wade* ruling allowing for

women's reproductive choice.

Several area independent bookstores have sold the book and donated the proceeds to UCWN, who in turn, donated the money to our League, as champions for reproductive rights. This was the second check received and the first check was for \$200.

We want to thank Gloria for her generosity of heart, translated into action to further support League action on for the rights of women.

Gloria also heads Parrots for Peace and brings her amazing and beautiful parrots to events in the Hudson Valley and beyond.

"May there be peace between all People, Animals and Nature as we learn to live in Harmony and Balance with our one shared living Mother Earth."

For more information on the Ulster County Women's Network go to UCWN.org or parrotsforpeace.org.



Ulster County Honors League Members

Emilie Hauser and Cynthia Bell were, recently honored by Ulster County for the work they did to help their communities during the COVID pandemic. Just one more feather in the caps of two League members who always go the extra mile!





Office of the Executive
Citation

WHEREAS, *Ulster County is proud to recognize individuals and organizations for distinguished contributions and service to the enhancement of the community; and*

WHEREAS, *in March 2020, when the County of Ulster was faced with responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Cynthia Bell made a decision to serve the community despite personal risk; and*

WHEREAS, *Cynthia Bell is such an individual who bravely served the people of Ulster County as a volunteer of the Ulster County COVID-19 Vaccination PODs; and*

WHEREAS, *the actions of Cynthia Bell contributed to the health and resilience of our community and exemplify the highest degree of public service to the community. Their dedication and commitment are a true asset to the County of Ulster and deserves special recognition,*



NOW, THEREFORE, *I, Jen Metzger, Ulster County Executive, on this 13th day of April 2023, do hereby recognize the outstanding contributions to the people of Ulster County by*

Cynthia Bell

THE HONORABLE Jen Metzger
Ulster County Executive

LWVMHR President Speaks at Library
Dare Thompson was the speaker at the recent Founders Day at the Sarah Hull Hallock Library, in Milton. She spoke about



the Women's Suffrage Movement. The Library's founder shared a similar history with Dare - being Quaker and having a fierce interest in equality.

UNTIL JUSTICE JUST IS

**MOVIE SHOWING OF
"PUSHOUT: THE
CRIMINALIZATION OF
BLACK GIRLS IN
SCHOOLS"**



**TUESDAY MAY 9TH AT 6PM
65 ST. JAMES ST.**



**KINGSTON, NY 12401
(GOOD WORK INSTITUTE)**

**EMAIL:
COMMS@YWCAULSTERCOUNTY**



**REFRESHMENTS WILL
BE SERVED
&
PANEL DISCUSSION TO
FOLLOW THE MOVIE**

**GOOD WORK
INSTITUTE**

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
Ulster County, NY

1923
centur**y**strong
2023
Our future starts with You!



UNTIL JUSTICE JUST IS

SHORT FILMS SHOWING OF
"DEAR BASKETBALL"
"HAIR LOVE"
"THE BLACK FRIEND"

WEDNESDAY MAY 10TH AT 6PM

733 BROADWAY
KINGSTON, NY 12401
(ULSTER COUNTY RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CENTER)

EMAIL:
COMMS@YWCAULSTERCOUNTY



REFRESHMENTS WILL
BE SERVED
&
PANEL DISCUSSION TO
FOLLOW THE FILMS

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
Ulster County, NY

1923
centur**y**strong
2023
Our future starts with You!
ywca
ulster county



UNTIL JUSTICE JUST IS

**THURSDAY MAY 11TH AT 4PM
29 N. HAMILTON ST. POUGHKEEPSIE, NY 12601
(THE FAMILY PARTNERSHIP CENTER FIELD)**

STAND AGAINST RACISM POUGHKEEPSIE

**EMAIL:
COMMS@YWCAULSTERCOUNTY**

**SPEAKERS
PERFORMANCES
COMMUNITY!**

**RAIN LOCATION:
68 DUTCHESS AVE. POUGHKEEPSIE, NY 12601
(LITTLE WATER PREP)**

**RALLY WITH US AS WE EMPOWER EACH
OTHER TO TAKE A STAND AGAINST RACISM**

RALLY

STAND

FIGHT

LOVE



**UNTIL
JUSTICE
JUST
IS**

**SPEAKERS
PERFORMANCES
COMMUNITY!**

**EMAIL:
COMMS@YWCAULSTERCOUNTY**

**FRIDAY MAY 12TH AT 4PM
209 CLINTON AVE. KINGSTON, NY 12401**

**STAND
AGAINST
RACISM
KINGSTON**

**RALLY WITH US AS WE EMPOWER EACH OTHER
TO TAKE A STAND AGAINST RACISM**

RALLY

STAND

FIGHT

LOVE



**eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
Ulster County, NY**



From UCRRA:

**We're Celebrating Compost
Awareness Week!**

About ICAW: International Compost
Awareness Week is the largest and



This year's winner of the ICAW 2023 Poster Contest is Jun Qi Tan, an illustrator and storyteller from Singapore.

most comprehensive education initiative of the compost industry. It's celebrated nationwide, internationally, and officially across New York State each year during the first full week of May. The goal of ICAW is for communities everywhere to raise public awareness about the many benefits of composting and how to make and use compost to regenerate soils. Visit the [New York Compost Awareness Week page](#) for more information about local programs, events, and initiatives.

2023 Theme: For Healthier Soil, Healthier Food...Compost! Each year, a new theme for ICAW is chosen. The 2023 theme was chosen based on a serious world-wide issue that every nation, unfortunately, experiences: hunger. As part of the ICAW committee's global discussion with our international partners around the world, we spoke the same language, and all wanted to promote a unified theme – aligning a topic important to each country while emphasizing our work with compost. The chosen 2023 theme best reflects the goal of focusing on how compost can have a role in helping feed the world, by making our soil healthier which produces healthier food. How does compost help? By recycling organics into compost and using it on our farmlands we create healthy soils that produce healthier food and higher yields. It also reduces the need for fertilizer and pesticides, improves water quality and conserves water, as well as stores carbon in soil – helping to reduce climate change. Compost not only helps the environment but also helps to decrease food shortages experienced around the world. For

Healthier Soil, Healthier Food...Compost!

For more on purchasing Home Composters and other events go to [UCRRA's Events page!](#)



We also have an archive of videos done by our local LWV Mid-Hudson on YouTube! You can access them [here](#).

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Editor's Note:

We want you to know that we welcome your feedback with regard to anything you read in this newsletter, or items that you would like to see. We're here for you and would like to hear from you. Contact info@lwvmidhudson.org. Thanks.
Next Newsletter deadline is May 22nd.

Also note: this and previous issues of our newsletter are available for viewing on our website lwvmidhudson.org.

info@lwvmidhudson.org

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